Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 106526 ORIGIN MMO-02

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EUR/RPE - E. CASEY (DRAFT)

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TREASURY - E. LACK (INFO)

CUSTOMS - A. FRANCIS - (DRAFT)

M/MO:A. BAUMAN (DRAFT)

PER/FCA/SEC - M. FIEBIG (DRAFT)

EUR/RPE - E. CASEY (DRAFT)

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TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USDEL MTN GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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TAGS: AODE, ETRD, BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUBJECT: MODE - TREASURY REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A US POSITION AT USEC FOR LIAISON WITH CCC

REF: EC BRUSSELS 4168 (NOTAL), STATE 071162, STATE 76 303242

1. INTERAGENCY DISCUSSIONS HERE HAVE PRODUCED FOLLOWING

REACTIONS BY CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVES TO POINTS IN REFTEL:

A. WHICH AGENCY/SERVICE SHOULD ESTABLISH THE TWO POSITIONS? CUSTOMS REPS MAINTAIN POSITION THAT THE OFFICER POSITION BE IN CUSTOMS SERVICE (I.E., GS RATHER THAN FS) BUT ARE WILLING TO EXPLORE ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE A FS SECRETARY OCCUPYING A CUSTOMS SLOT, ALL COSTS TO BE FUNDED BY CUSTOMS. MODE STAFF DIRECTOR POINTED OUT (1) QUERIES SHOW USEC, STATE/EUR, AND STATE'S CENTRAL POSITION REPROGRAMMING STAFF HAVE ALL DECLINED THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPROGRAM TO ESTABLISH THESE AS STATE SLOTS, ALL ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE ACTIVITY DOESN'T COMPETE WITH THEIR OTHER URGENT PRIORITIES; (2) TREASURY'S DECISION WHETHER TO OFFSET (ABSORB) THESE TWO POSITIONS WITHIN THE EXISTING AGENCY WORLDWIDE MODE CEILING (OTHER THAN PRECLEARANCE POSITIONS) WILL ALSO INDICATE THE ACTIVITY'S PRIORITY IN

COMPARISON WITH OTHER OVERSEAS TREASURY PROGRAMS.

B. JOB CONTENT. CUSTOMS AGREES ON DESIRABILITY OF HAVING OFFICER CONCERNED WITH GENERAL TRADE POLICY MATTERS, RECOGNIZING THAT HIS PRIMARY DUTIES WOULD RELATE TO CCC AND OTHER EC CUSTOMS MATTERS. IN ADDITION, CUSTOMS SPOKESMEN STATED THEY ENVISAGE OFFICER SERVING OCCASIONALLY AS VISITING TECHNICAL ADVISOR ON CUSTOMS ISSUES TO MTN DELEGATION GENEVA. THIS IS FIRST TIME SUCH DUTIES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED HERE FOR PROPOSED POSITION AND DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING MTN GENEVA COMMENTS.

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C. ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. CUSTOMS SPOKESMEN REJECTED FORMULA FOR INTEGRATING OFFICER INTO USEC ECONOMIC SECTION. THEY RECOGNIZE OFFICER MUST BE UNDER COM POLICY DIRECTION, BUT DO NOT ACCEPT SUBORDINATION TO ECONOMIC COUNSELOR. THEY EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT UNDER INTEGRATED FORMULA OFFICER MIGHT BE DIVERTED FROM MAIN (CUSTOMS-RELATED) RESPONSIBILITIES. THEY WANT OFFICER DESIGNATED AS CUSTOMS ATTACHE AND ENVISAGE PRIMARY DAY TO DAY MANAGEMENT AND DIRECTION OF HIS ACTIVITIES BY CUSTOMS/WASHINGTON, REFLECTING REQUIREMENTS OF INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON CCC. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMEN STRESSED COM HAS STRONG AUTHORITY TO ORGANIZE HIS MISSION AND SUGGESTED THIS ISSUE MIGHT BE A STICKING POINT FOR USEC.

D. GRADE OF OFFICER; QUALIFICATIONS. CUSTOMS REPS STATED THAT ALL QUALIFIED CUSTOMS CANDIDATES FOR THE JOB WILL HAVE ATTAINED GS-14 RANK IN ORDER TO HAVE ACQUIRED THE TECHNICAL/MANAGEMENT SKILLS CUSTOMS CONSIDERS NECESSARY FOR THE JOB. THEY WILL HAVE TO ADVERTISE THE JOB AS A

GS-14/15. TENTATIVE SELECTION WILL BE VIA NATIONWIDE MERIT SYSTEM. DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND COM WOULD BE CONSULTED AFTER TENTATIVE CHOICE IS MADE BY CUSTOMS.

E. SECRETARY POSITION. WHILE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE FS SECRETARY FORMULA, CUSTOMS IS WILLING TO CONSIDER IT, BUT REQUIRES ASSURANCES THAT NECESSARY SECRETARIAL SUPPORT WILL ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE TO THE OFFICER IN DISCHARGING HIS ASSIGNED FUNCTIONS.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS ON ALL ABOVE POINTS BY USEC AND ON ITEM B. ABOVE BY MTN GENEVA. WE HOPE TO MOVE THIS PROPOSAL TO DECISION BY THIRD WEEK OF MAY. CHRISTOPHER

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